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SUPERMAN

IN ACTION COMICS

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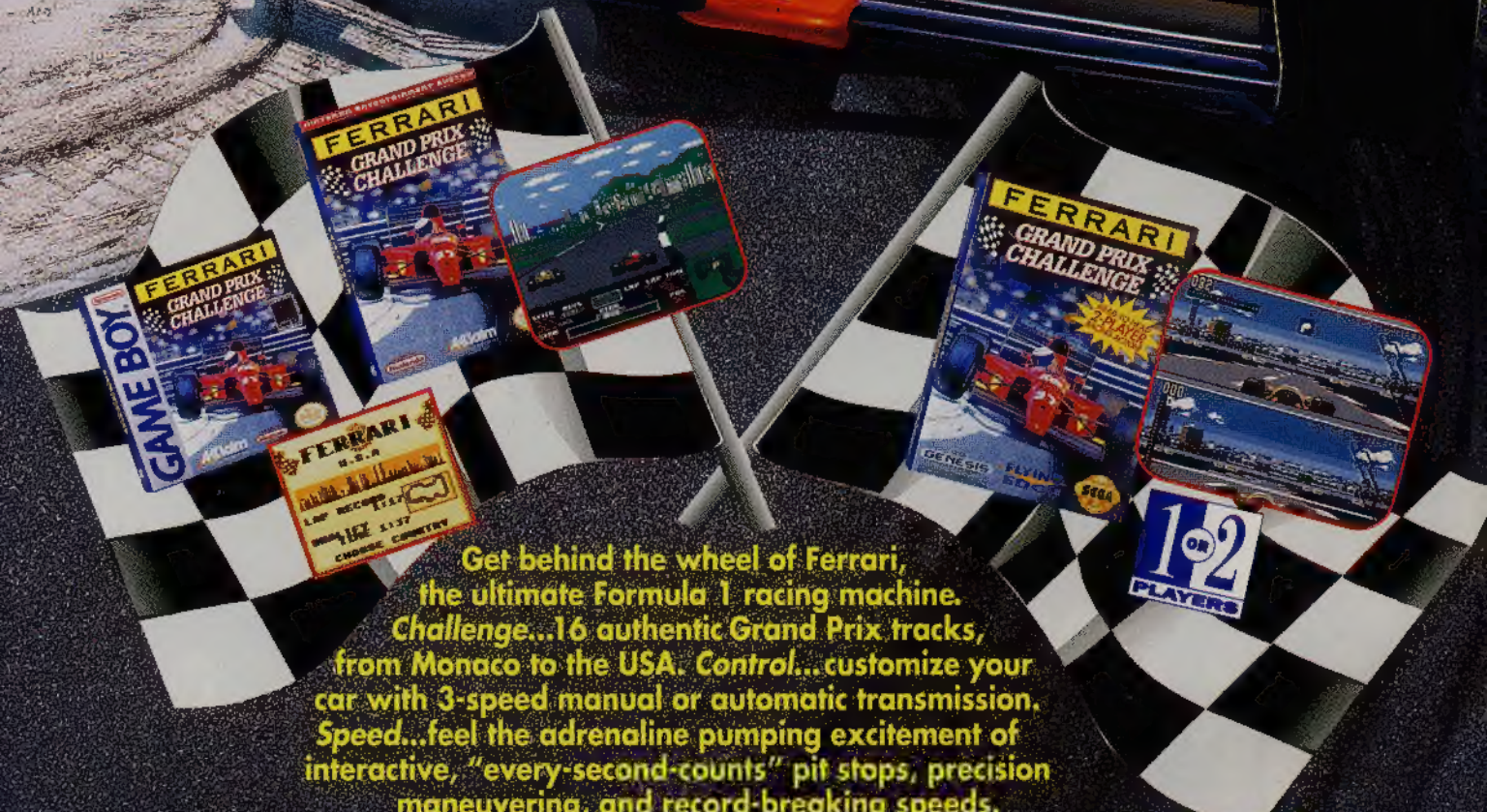
BY
ROGER STERN,
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THE BLAZE/SATANUS WAR RAGES ON!

47
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PAYMENT DUE

METROPOLIS.
THE OFFICES
OF NEWSTIME
MAGAZINE...

NEWLY-HIRED
MANAGING
EDITOR SAM
FOSWELL IS
NOT HAVING A
VERY GOOD
FIRST DAY...

I-I DON'T
BELIEVE THIS!
THIS CAN'T BE
HAPPENING TO
ME!

THIS HAS
TO BE SOME
SORT OF
HORRIBLE
NIGHTMARE!

A DEVILISHLY DIFFERENT
TALE OF

SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

PRESENTED BY...
ROGER STERN - WRITER
JACKSON & DENIS - ARTISTS
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MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

ACTION COMICS 680, August, 1992. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACTION COMICS, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate \$15.00. Canadian subscribers must add \$8.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1992 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850. Printed in Canada.

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THESE... THESE DEMONS
CAME FLOWING OUT OF
WINDOWS, COMPUTER
SCREENS... JUST ABOUT
EVERY SHINY
SURFACE!

THEY'RE
EVERYWHERE! I
THOUGHT THEY WERE
GOING TO KILL ME...
UNTIL SUPERMAN
SHOWED UP!

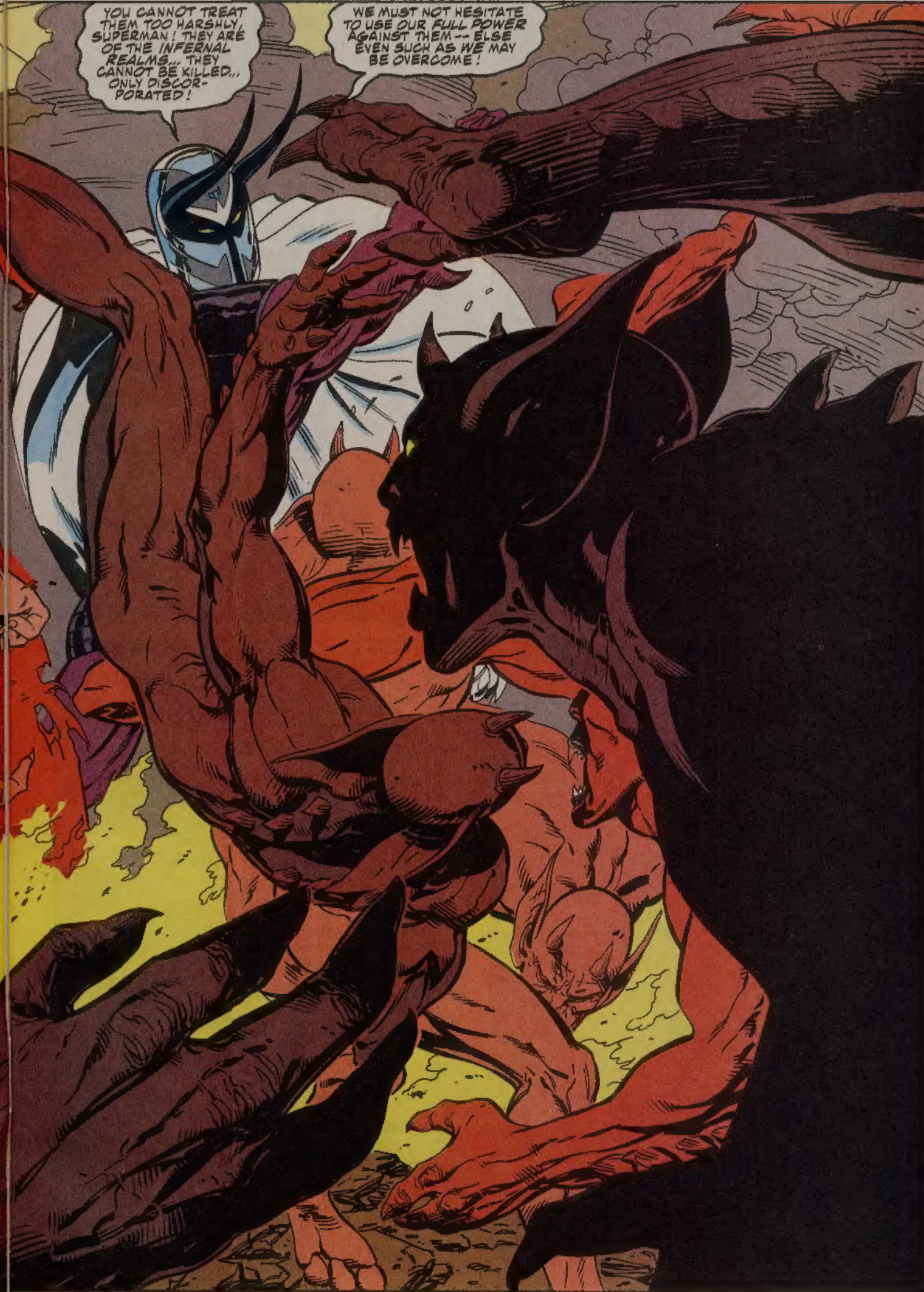
THEY EVEN
HURT HIM, AND I
THOUGHT THAT
WAS JUST ABOUT
IMPOSSIBLE!

THIS IS MADDENING! I
THOUGHT I WAS THROUGH
WITH THESE CREATURES,
BUT MORE KEEP COMING!



YOU CANNOT TREAT
THEM TOO HARSHLY,
SUPERMAN! THEY ARE
OF THE INFERNAL
REALMS... THEY
CANNOT BE KILLED...
ONLY DISCOR-
PORATED!

WE MUST NOT HESITATE
TO USE OUR FULL POWER
AGAINST THEM -- ELSE
EVEN SUCH AS WE MAY
BE OVERCOME!



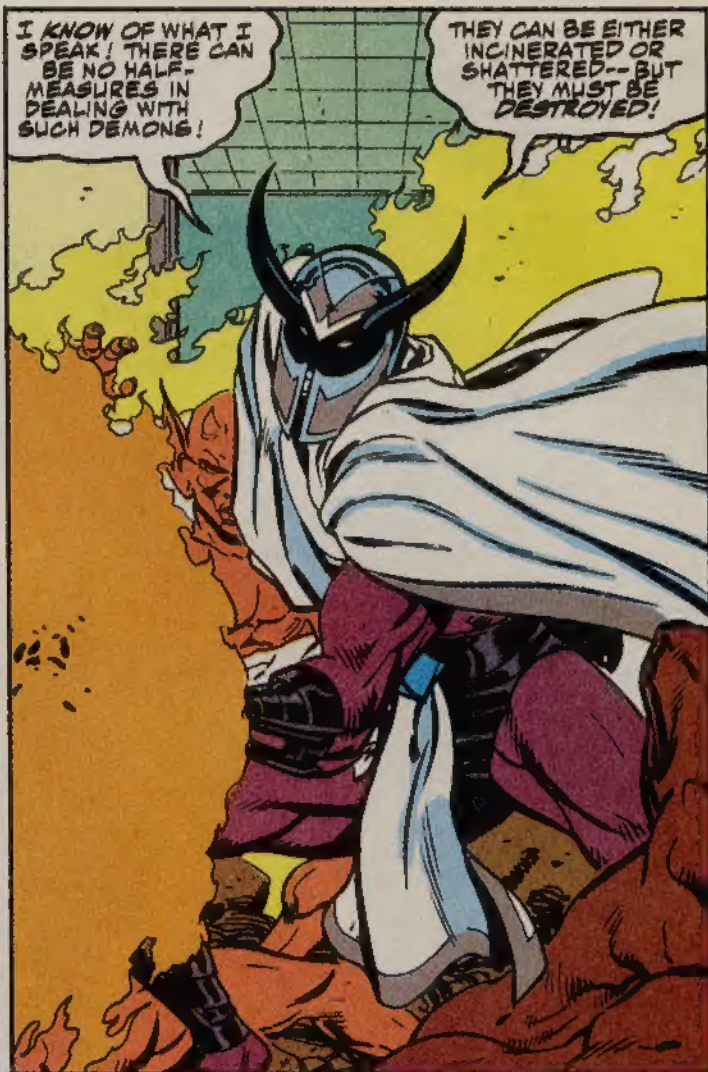


I DON'T KNOW WHY I SHOULD TRUST YOUR WORD, MISTER.

STILL, HE DID HELP FREE ME FROM THE FIRST BUNCH... *

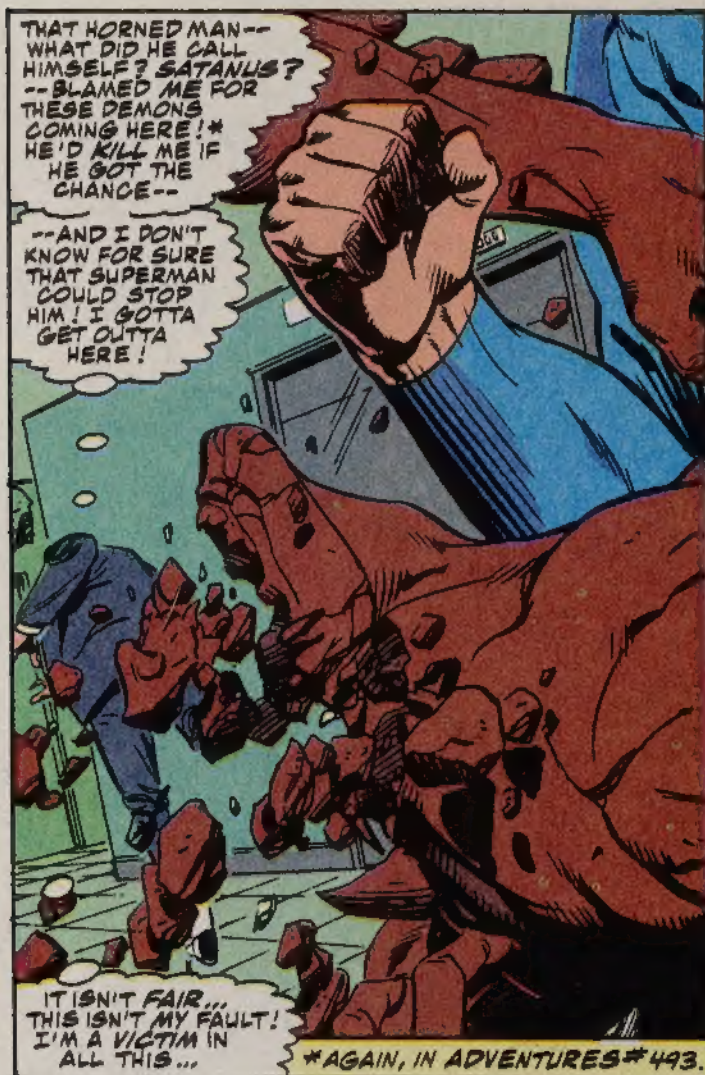
... AND THESE THINGS ARE DEFINITELY SUPERNATURAL! IN FACT, THEY'RE A LOT LIKE THE MONSTERS BLAZE SIGNED ON ME! **

* IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #493.
** BACK IN SUPERMAN #47.



I KNOW OF WHAT I SPEAK! THERE CAN BE NO HALF-MEASURES IN DEALING WITH SUCH DEMONS!

THEY CAN BE EITHER INCINERATED OR SHATTERED-- BUT THEY MUST BE DESTROYED!



THAT HORNED MAN-- WHAT DID HE CALL HIMSELF? SATANUS? --BLAMED ME FOR THESE DEMONS COMING HERE! * HE'D KILL ME IF HE GOT THE CHANCE--

--AND I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THAT SUPERMAN COULD STOP HIM! I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!

IT ISN'T FAIR... THIS ISN'T MY FAULT! I'M A VICTIM IN ALL THIS...

* AGAIN, IN ADVENTURES #493.



"... JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE WHO'S STUCK IN THE BUILDING!"

IT'S OKAY, LOIS... I DON'T THINK THOSE MONSTERS CAN GET AT US IN HERE!

YES, BUT WE CAN'T STAY IN THIS ELEVATOR FOREVER, JIM! AND IF THOSE DEMONS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE LOBBY, THEY'RE MOST LIKELY ON THE UPPER FLOORS, TOO!

YEAH... WELL... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FACE THAT PROBLEM WHEN WE COME TO IT. I HOPE CLARK'S OKAY... HE WAS HEADED HERE...

I WISH MY SIGNAL WATCH HADN'T BEEN BROKEN! * WE COULD SURE USE SUPERMAN NOW!

LET'S NOT WORRY NEEDLESSLY, JIM. CLARK CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF...

* IN MAN OF STEEL #14.



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P	S	P	R	E	E	E	S	P	S	R
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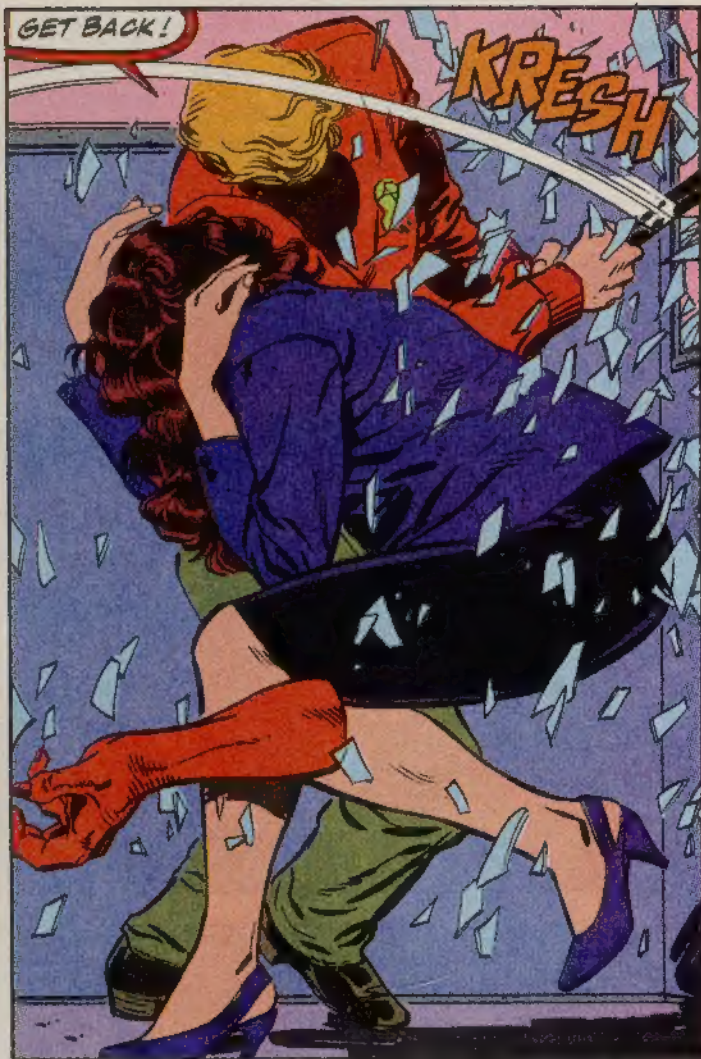
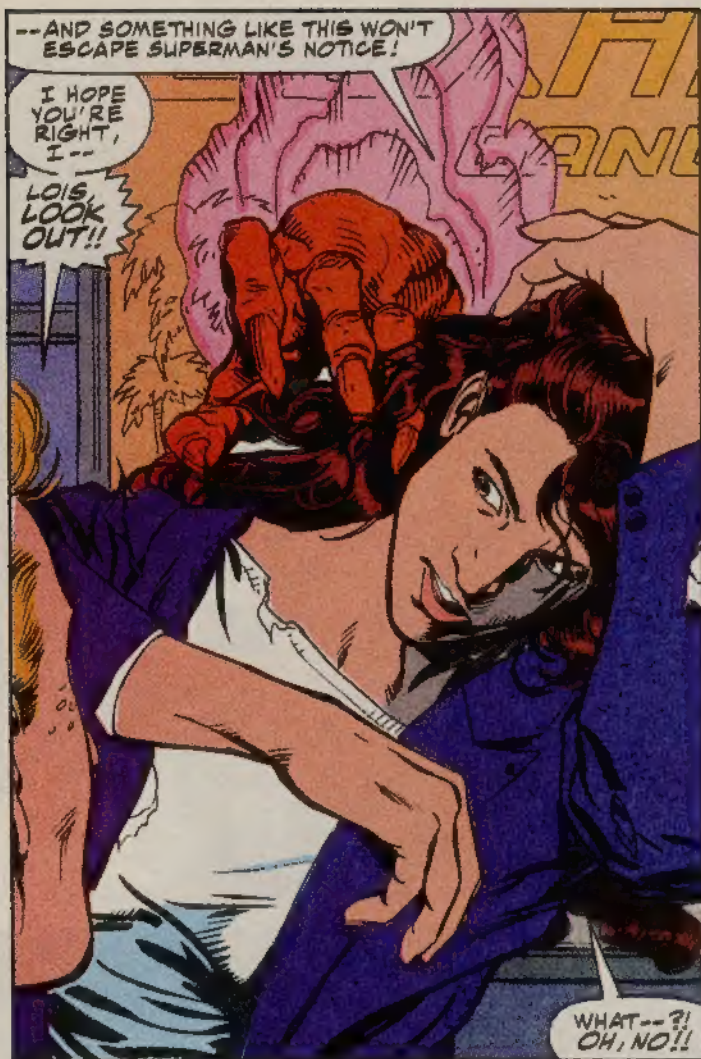
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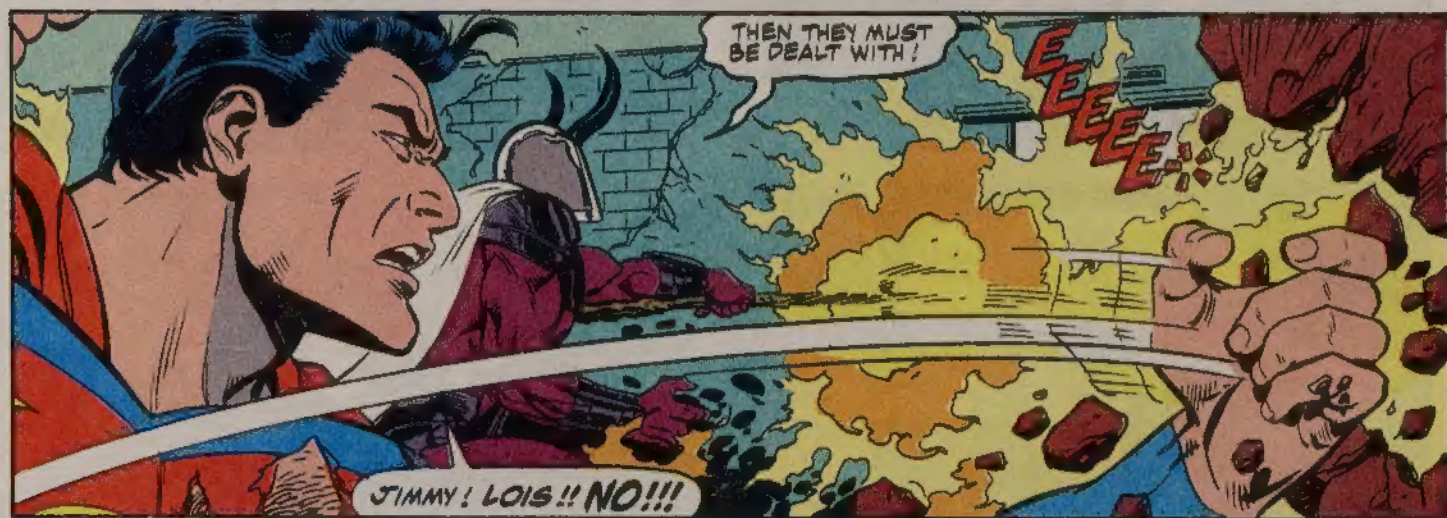
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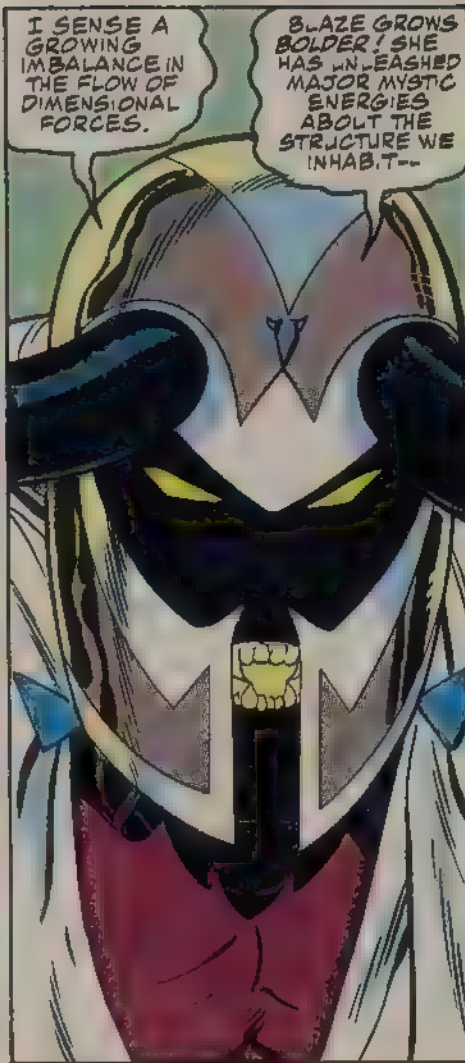




WELL, I GUESS WE WON'T BE GETTING OUT OF HERE THAT WAY!

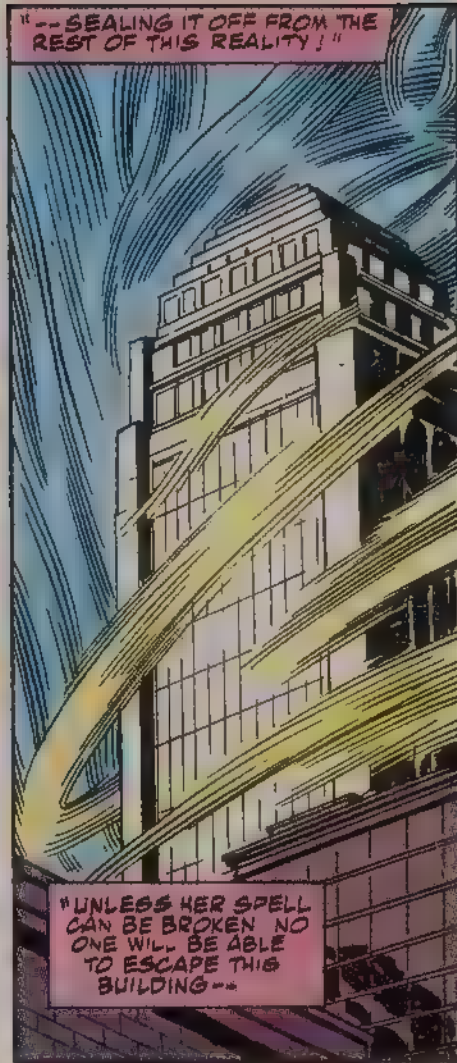
UHHHNN!!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT'S GOING ON?



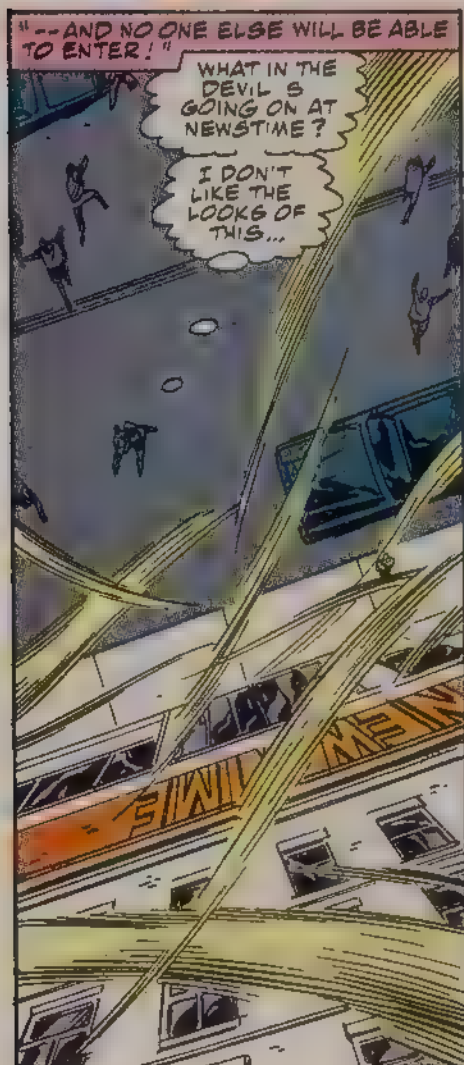
I SENSE A GROWING IMBALANCE IN THE FLOW OF DIMENSIONAL FORCES.

BLAZE GROWS BOLDER! SHE HAS UNLEASHED MAJOR MYSTIC ENERGIES ABOUT THE STRUCTURE WE INHABIT--



--SEALING IT OFF FROM THE REST OF THIS REALITY!"

"UNLESS HER SPELL CAN BE BROKEN NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THIS BUILDING--"



--AND NO ONE ELSE WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER!"

WHAT IN THE DEVIL'S GOING ON AT NEWSTIME?

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS...



...BETTER CHECK WITH BUILDING SECURITY!

GYAHHH!



BADGE 95 TO DISPATCH... WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM AT THE NEWSTIME BUILDING ON 23RD.

WHAT'S THE SITUATION, 95?

I'M NOT SURE HOW TO DESCRIBE IT, BUT WE'RE GONNA NEED THE SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT ON THIS ONE...

THEY'RE BACK!
THE WORLD'S FIRST SUPER-TEAM!



JUSTICE SOCIETY *of America*™

Written by LEN STRAZEWSKI
Art by MIKE PAROBECK and MIKE MACHLAN



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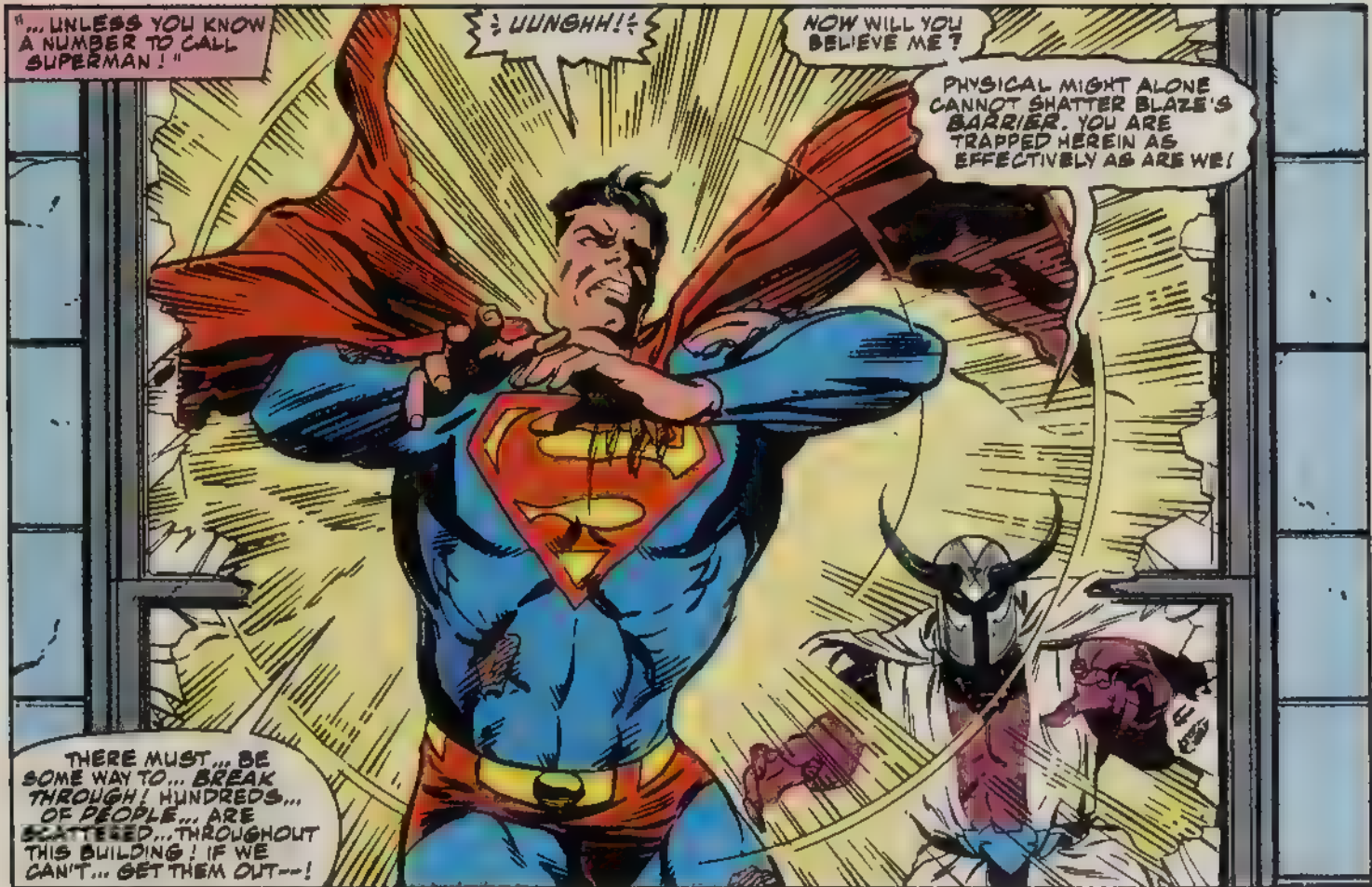
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"...UNLESS YOU KNOW A NUMBER TO CALL SUPERMAN!"

UUNGGH!!

NOW WILL YOU BELIEVE ME?

PHYSICAL MIGHT ALONE CANNOT SHATTER BLAZE'S BARRIER. YOU ARE TRAPPED HEREIN AS EFFECTIVELY AS ARE WE!

THERE MUST... BE SOME WAY TO... BREAK THROUGH! HUNDREDS... OF PEOPLE... ARE SCATTERED... THROUGHOUT THIS BUILDING! IF WE CAN'T... GET THEM OUT--!

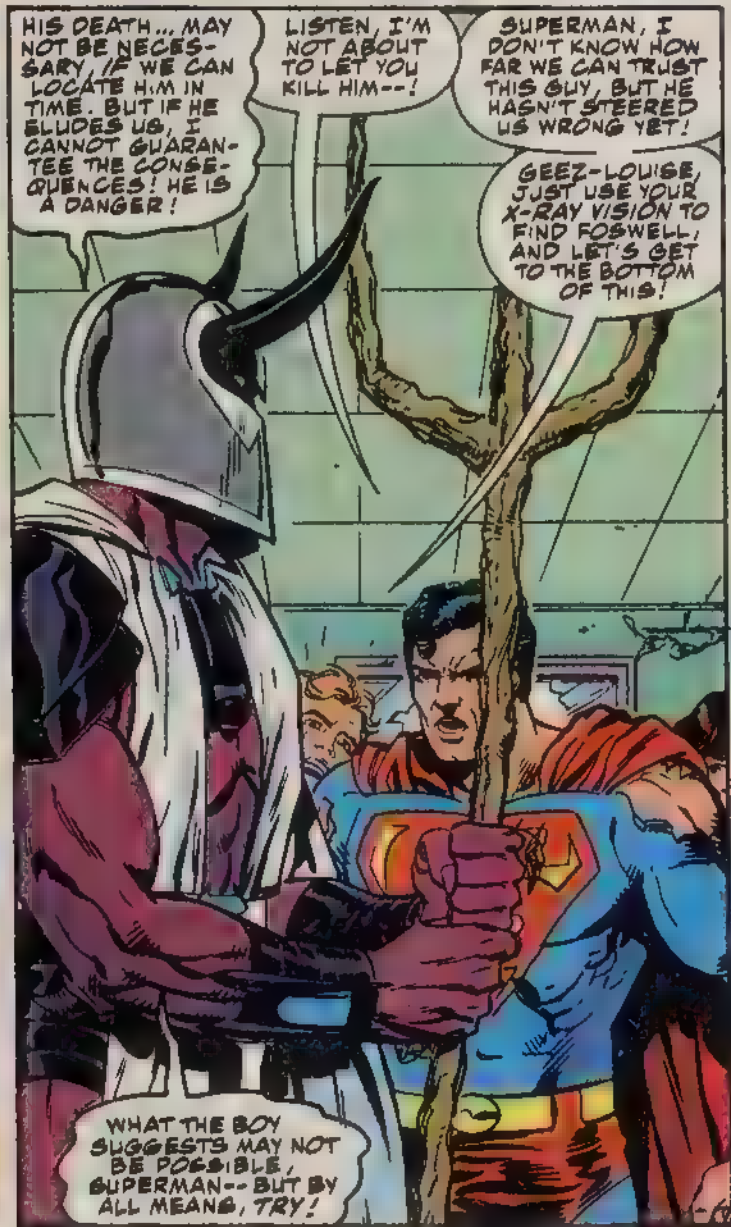


THEY SHALL ALL BE AT THE MERCY OF THE DEMONS. THAT IS WHY WE MUST FIND THE MAN FOSWELL... HE HAS DISAPPEARED AMID THE CHAOS.

SAM FOSWELL?! WHAT DOES HE HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?

HE HAS BEEN CORRUPTED BY THE TOUCH OF BLAZE! THROUGH HIM, SHE WAS ABLE TO SEND HER DEMONS HERE.

YOU SAID AS MUCH EARLIER, SATANUS. AS I RECALL, YOU ALSO THREATENED FOSWELL'S LIFE!



HIS DEATH... MAY NOT BE NECESSARY, IF WE CAN LOCATE HIM IN TIME. BUT IF HE ELUDES US, I CANNOT GUARANTEE THE CONSEQUENCES! HE IS A DANGER!

LISTEN, I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU KILL HIM--!

SUPERMAN, I DON'T KNOW HOW FAR WE CAN TRUST THIS GUY, BUT HE HASN'T STEERED US WRONG YET!

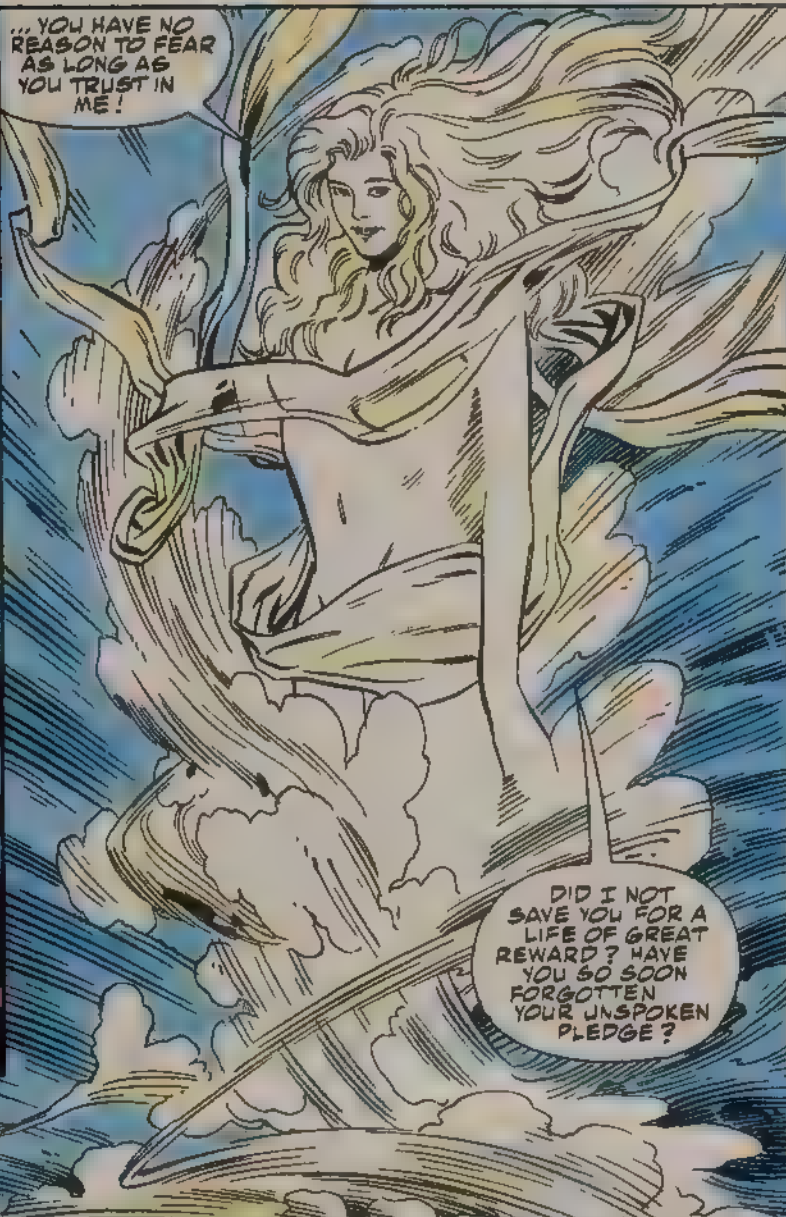
GEEZ-LOUISE, JUST USE YOUR X-RAY VISION TO FIND FOSWELL, AND LET'S GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!

WHAT THE BOY SUGGESTS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE, SUPERMAN--BUT BY ALL MEANS, TRY!





DO NOT
BE AFRAID,
SAMUEL...



... YOU HAVE NO
REASON TO FEAR
AS LONG AS
YOU TRUST IN
ME!

DID I NOT
SAVE YOU FOR A
LIFE OF GREAT
REWARD? HAVE
YOU SO SOON
FORGOTTEN
YOUR UNSPOKEN
PLEDGE?



Y-YOU... MY GUARDIAN
ANGEL! NO, I COULD
NEVER FORGET... YOU
SAVED MY LIFE! *
EVERYTHING TURNED
AROUND FOR ME, JUST
AS YOU PROMISED...

* IN SUPERMAN #70.



"U-UNTIL THESE DEMONS
SHOWED UP! Y-YOU'VE GOT TO
SAVE ME FROM THEM!
PLEASE!"



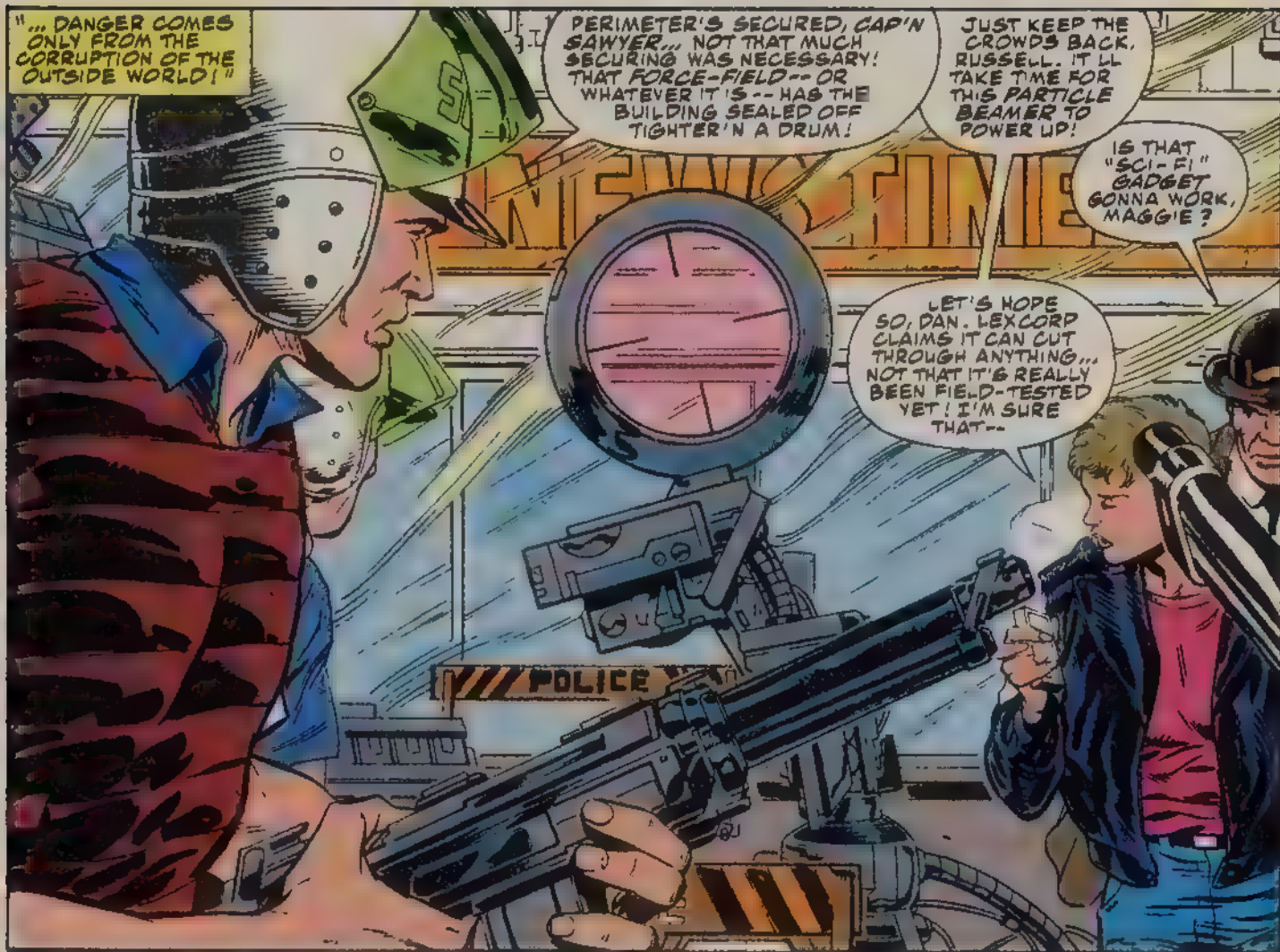
OH, SAMUEL...
POOR, DELUDED
SAMUEL!

DO NOT COVER
YOUR EYES! LOOK
MORE CAREFULLY
AND YOU WILL SEE
THAT THERE ARE NO
DEMONS HERE...



"ONLY MY HOST OF FOLLOWERS.
THEY WOULD NEVER HARM YOU,
SAMUEL. THEY LOVE YOU AS
DO I."

THERE
IS NO
DANGER
HERE...



"... DANGER COMES ONLY FROM THE CORRUPTION OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD!"

PERIMETER'S SECURED, CAP'N SAWYER... NOT THAT MUCH SECURING WAS NECESSARY! THAT FORCE-FIELD-- OR WHATEVER IT IS-- HAS THE BUILDING SEALED OFF TIGHTER'N A DRUM!

JUST KEEP THE CROWDS BACK, RUSSELL. IT LL TAKE TIME FOR THIS PARTICLE BEAMER TO POWER UP!

IS THAT "SCI-FI" GADGET GONNA WORK, MAGGIE?

LET'S HOPE SO, DAN. LEXCORP CLAIMS IT CAN CUT THROUGH ANYTHING... NOT THAT IT'S REALLY BEEN FIELD-TESTED YET! I'M SURE THAT--

"...THEY'LL BE KEEPING AS CLOSE AN EYE ON IT AS WE WILL!"

IT'S BEING SET UP NOW, DR. HAPPERSEN. DOES MR. LUTHOR KNOW--?

HE WILL SOON...

"... I JUST WISH HE WEREN'T OUT OF TOWN!"

I THINK YOU'LL ENJOY TOKYO, LOVE. IT'S QUITE A REMARKABLE CITY...

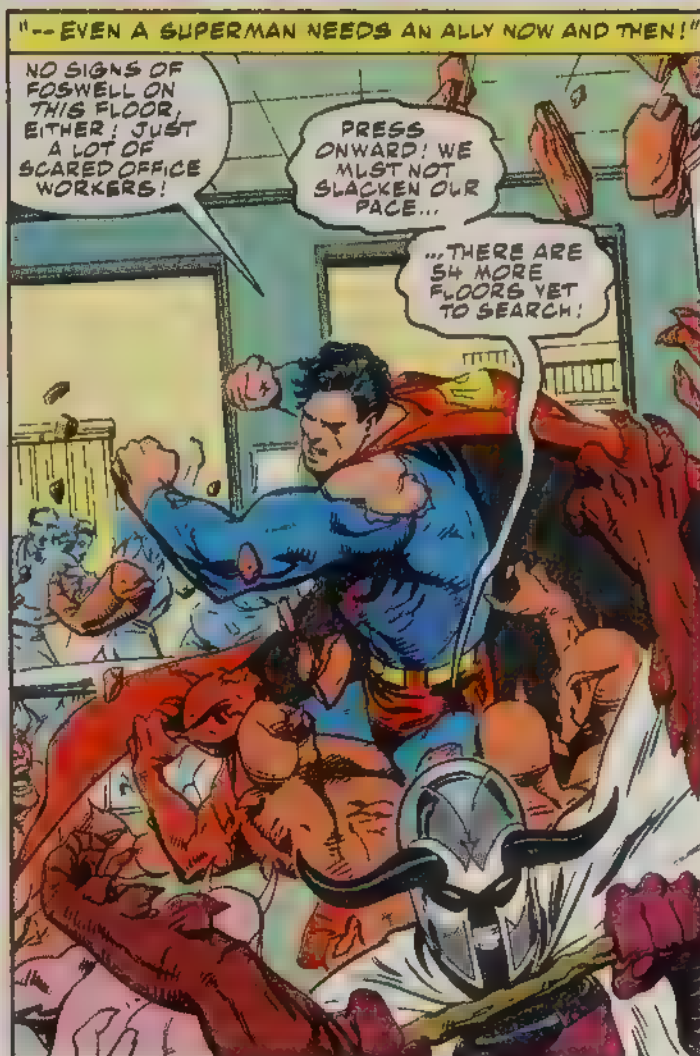
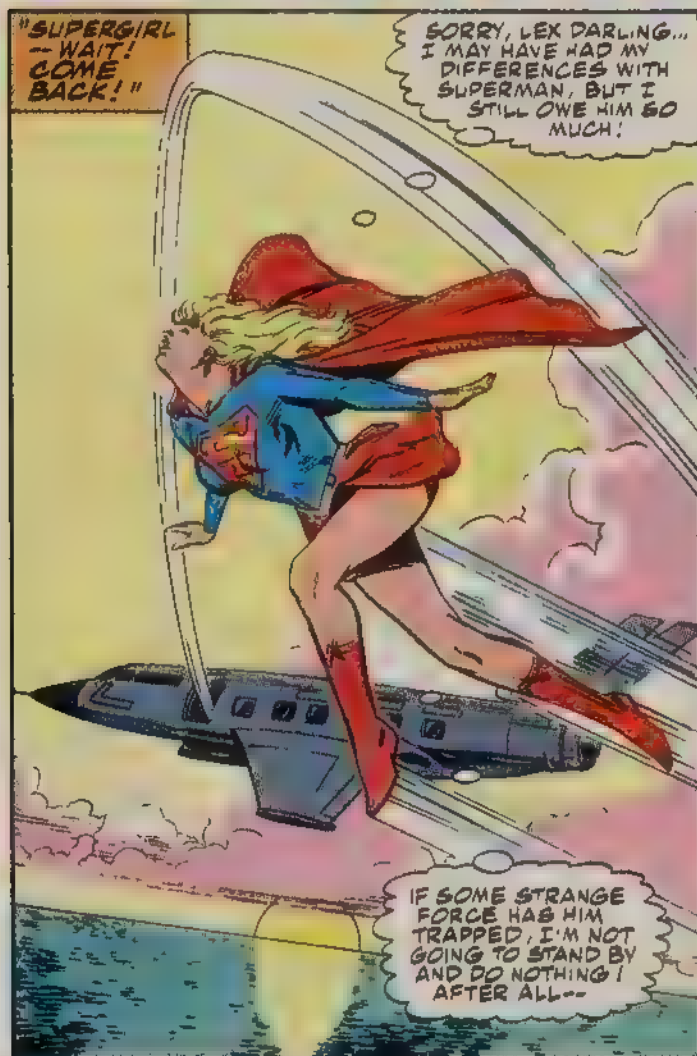
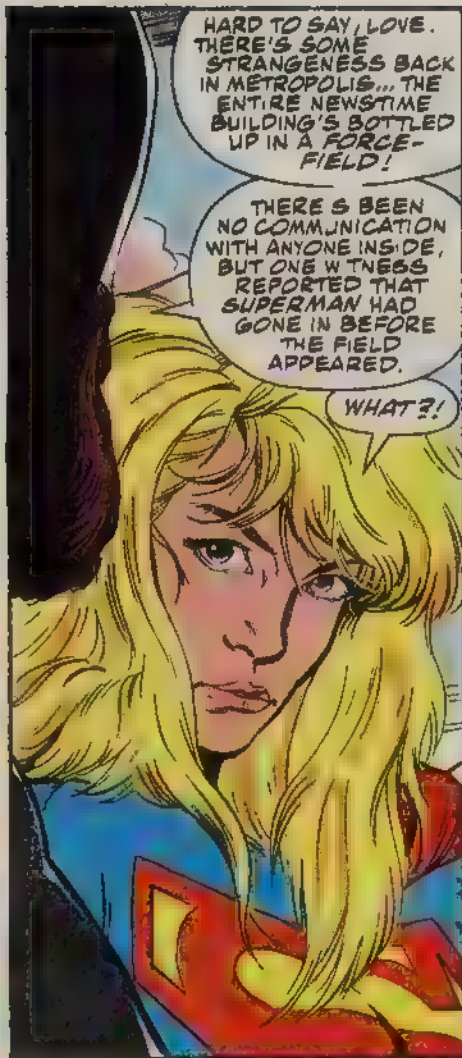
YOU'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE, LEX?

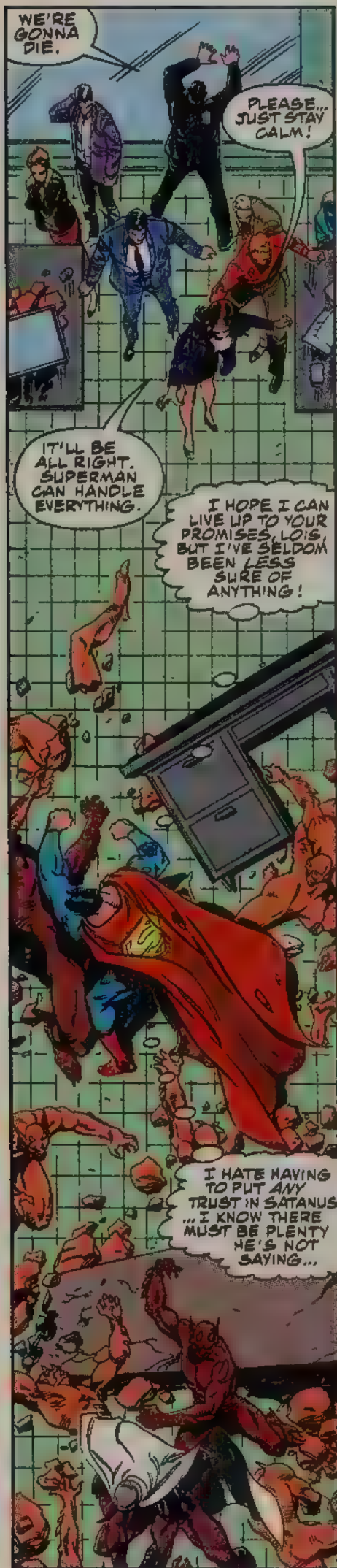
YES, I... WELL... NOT MYSELF, NO... BUT FATHER ALWAYS TOLD ME...

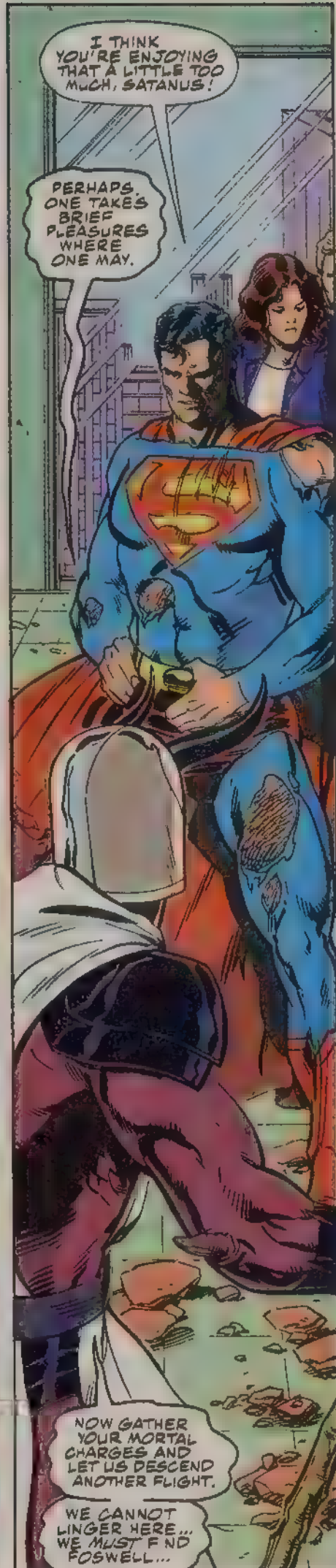
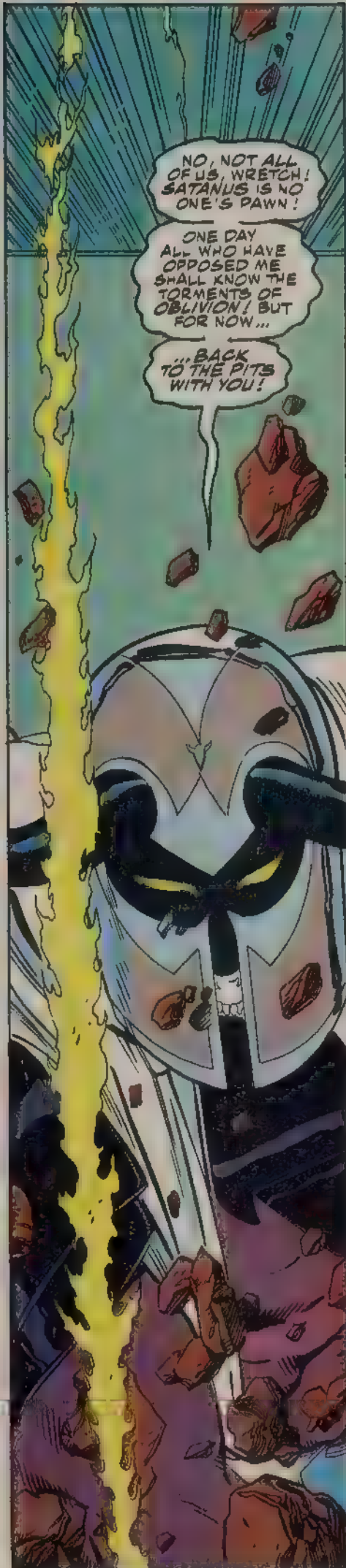
EH? I LEFT ORDERS FOR US NOT TO BE DISTURBED! WHO THE DEVIL COULD BE CALLING?

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!

RING
RING









"...WHEREVER HE MAY BE!"

W-WHAT'S GOING ON? THE ROOM...
-IT'S FALLEN AWAY!
WHERE--?

I HAVE REMOVED US TO THE SPACE WHICH LOOMS BETWEEN THE SPHERES, SAMUEL. HERE WE WILL BE HIDDEN FROM THOSE WHO WOULD DO YOU HARM.

THE DEMONS--?

YOU STILL DO NOT KNOW--? OH, SAMUEL, YOUR ENEMIES ARE NOT OF THE INFERNAL REALMS--THEY ARE OF THE MORTAL WORLD!



LET ME SHOW YOU...

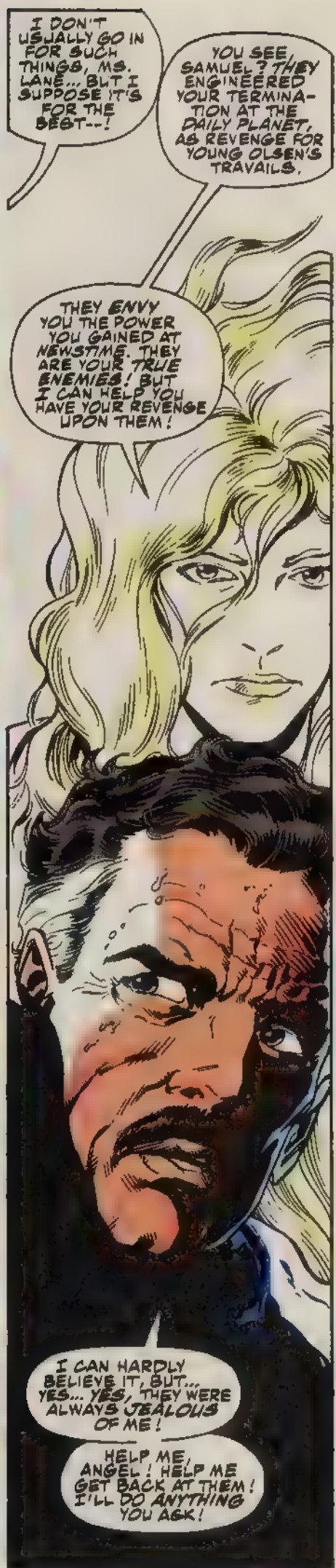
SO, FOSWELL HAS A GUARDIAN ANGEL? IF I'D KNOWN THAT, I NEVER WOULD HAVE BOTHERED TO SAVE HIS WORTHLESS HIDE!

IF THERE WAS EVER A GUY WHO DESERVED TO SUFFER, IT'S FOSWELL! WHEN HE WAS AT THE DAILY PLANET, HE FIRED ME! I SAY SATANUS IS RIGHT--

--LET'S KILL HIM!

JIMMY'S RIGHT, SUPERMAN!

NO! SUPERMAN, DON'T LISTEN TO THEM!



I DON'T USUALLY GO IN FOR SUCH THINGS, MS. LANE... BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S FOR THE BEST--!

YOU SEE, SAMUEL? THEY ENGINEERED YOUR TERMINATION AT THE DAILY PLANET, AS REVENGE FOR YOUNG OLSEN'S TRAVAILS.

THEY ENVY YOU THE POWER YOU GAINED AT NEWSTIME. THEY ARE YOUR TRUE ENEMIES! BUT I CAN HELP YOU HAVE YOUR REVENGE UPON THEM!

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT, BUT... YES... YES, THEY WERE ALWAYS JEALOUS OF ME!

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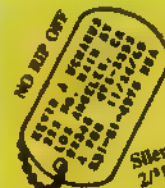


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I THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT.

BUT FIRST, YOU MUST PROVE YOUR DEVOTION TO ME... BY SHARING BLOOD WITH ONE OF MY HOST!

HEY! OUCH! A-ARE YOU SURE THIS IS SAFE?



YOUR ANGEL WILL ALWAYS WATCH OVER YOU, SAMUEL. DO YOU DOUBT ME?

N-NO, NEVER!

GOOD! THEN THE PACT IS SEALED! NOW SHALL YOU JOIN--

--MY HELLISH HOST!

WHAT? I... AARRGH!

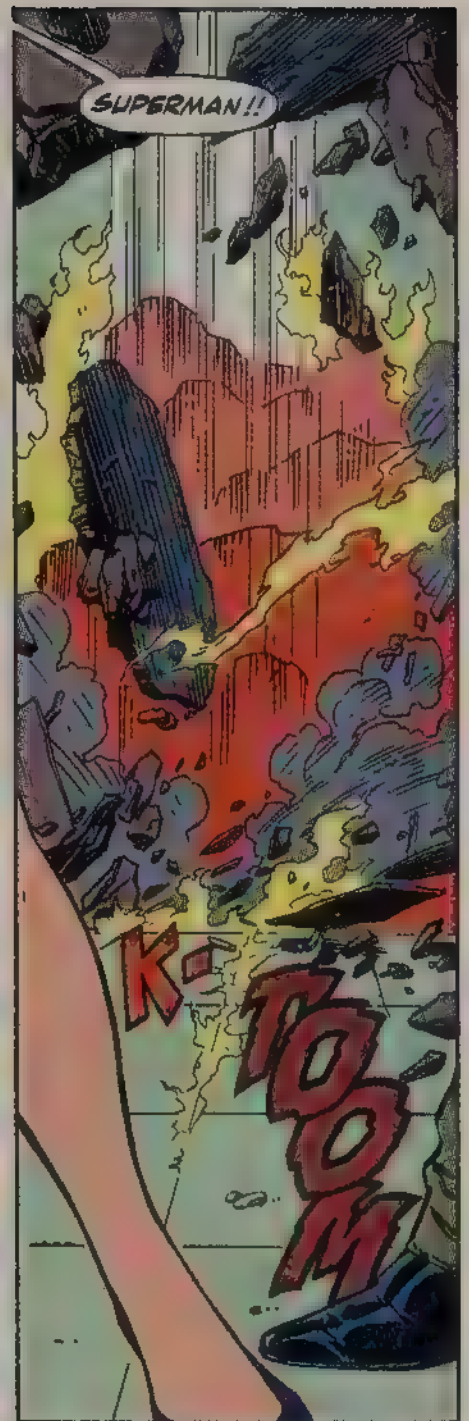
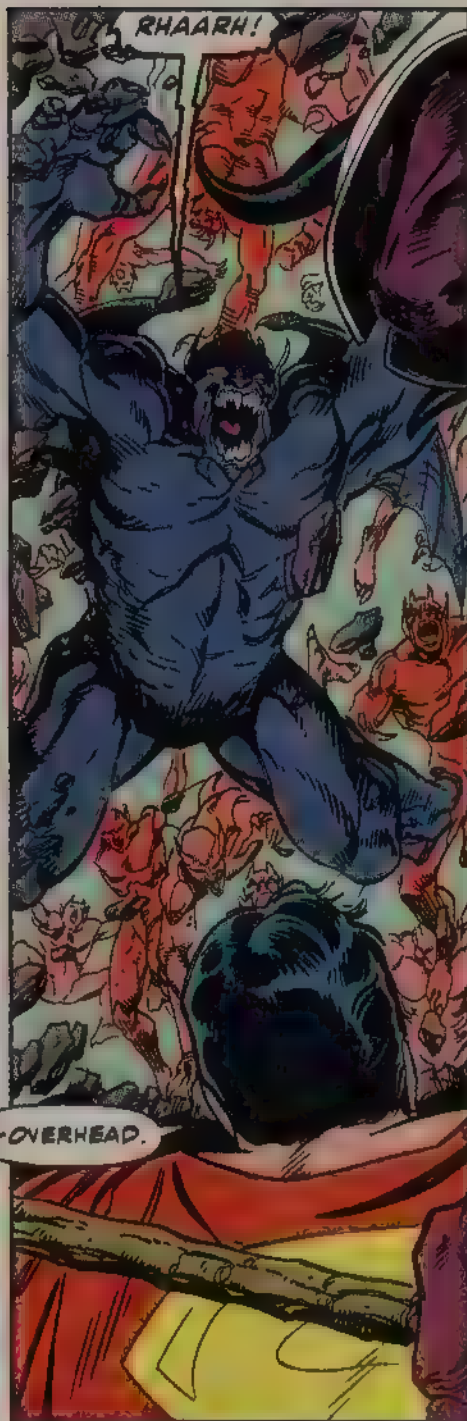


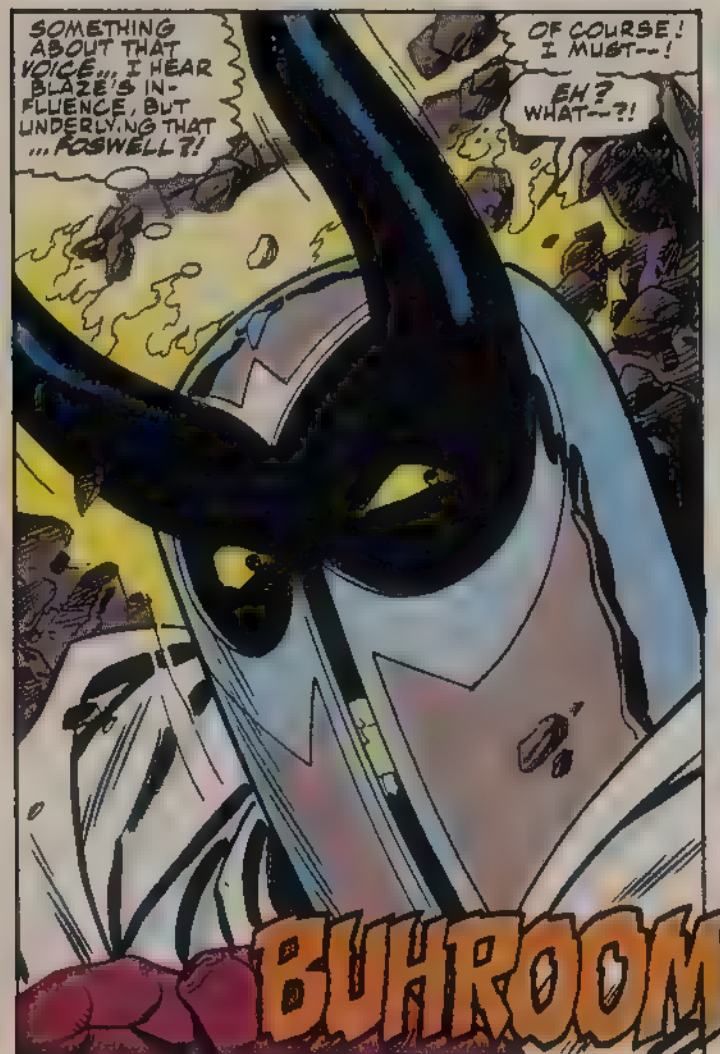
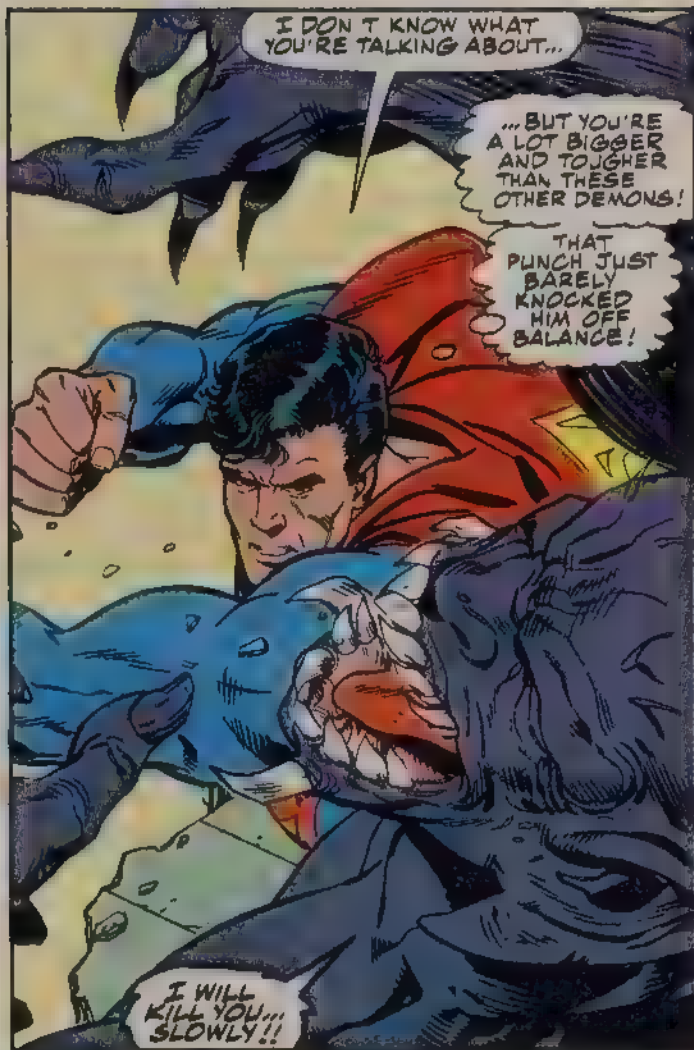
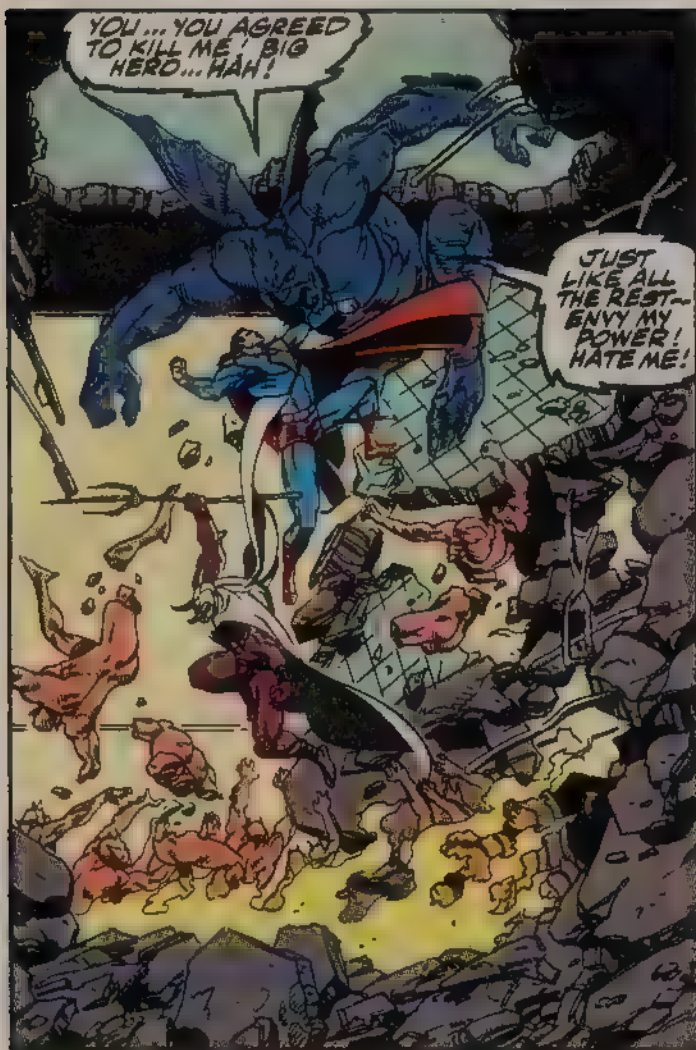
WHAT... IS... HAPPENING...

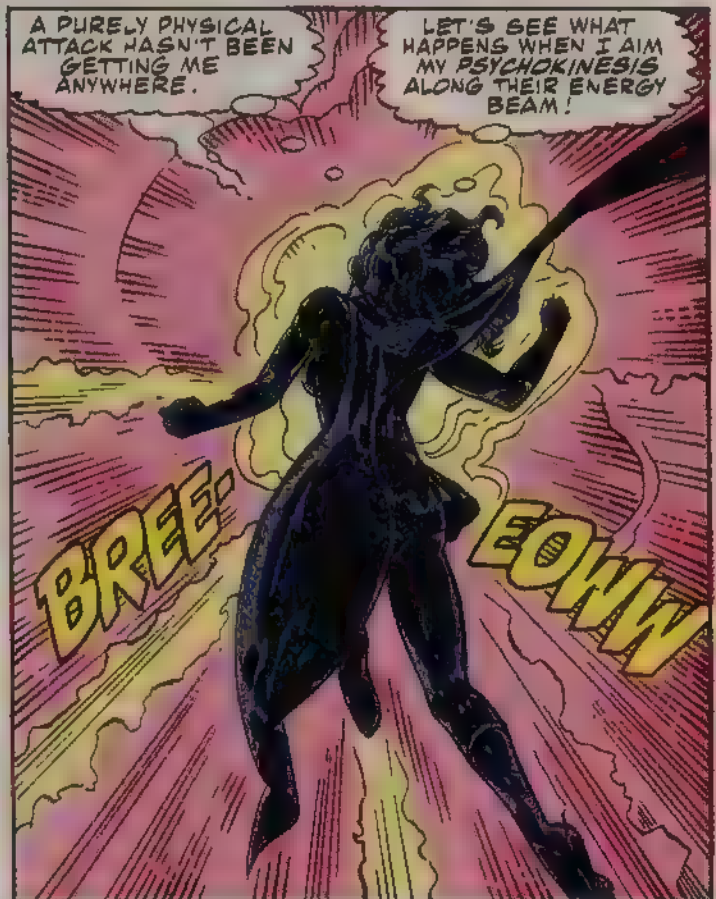
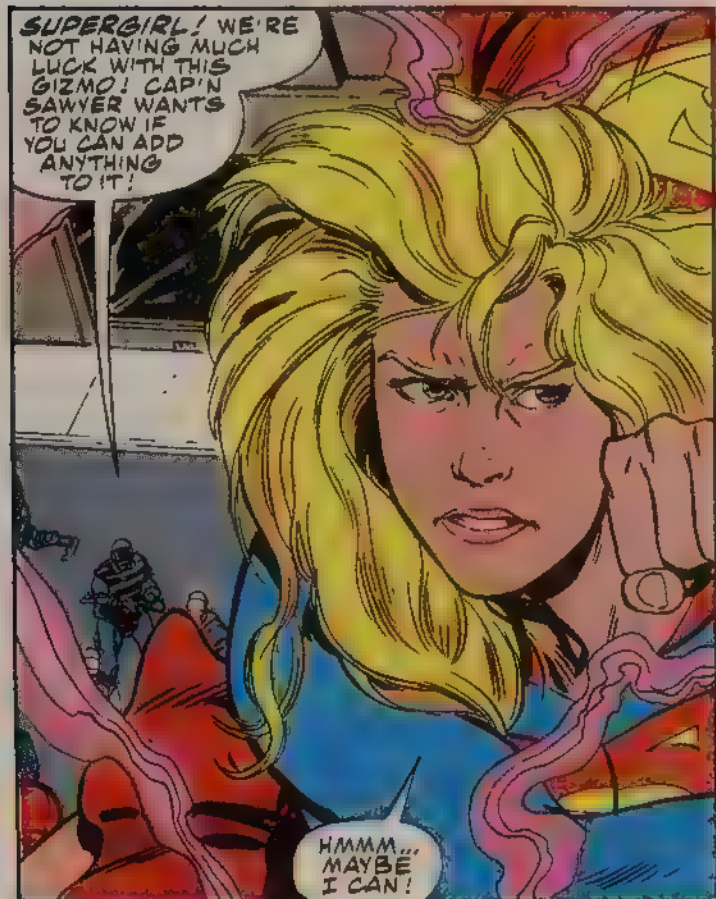
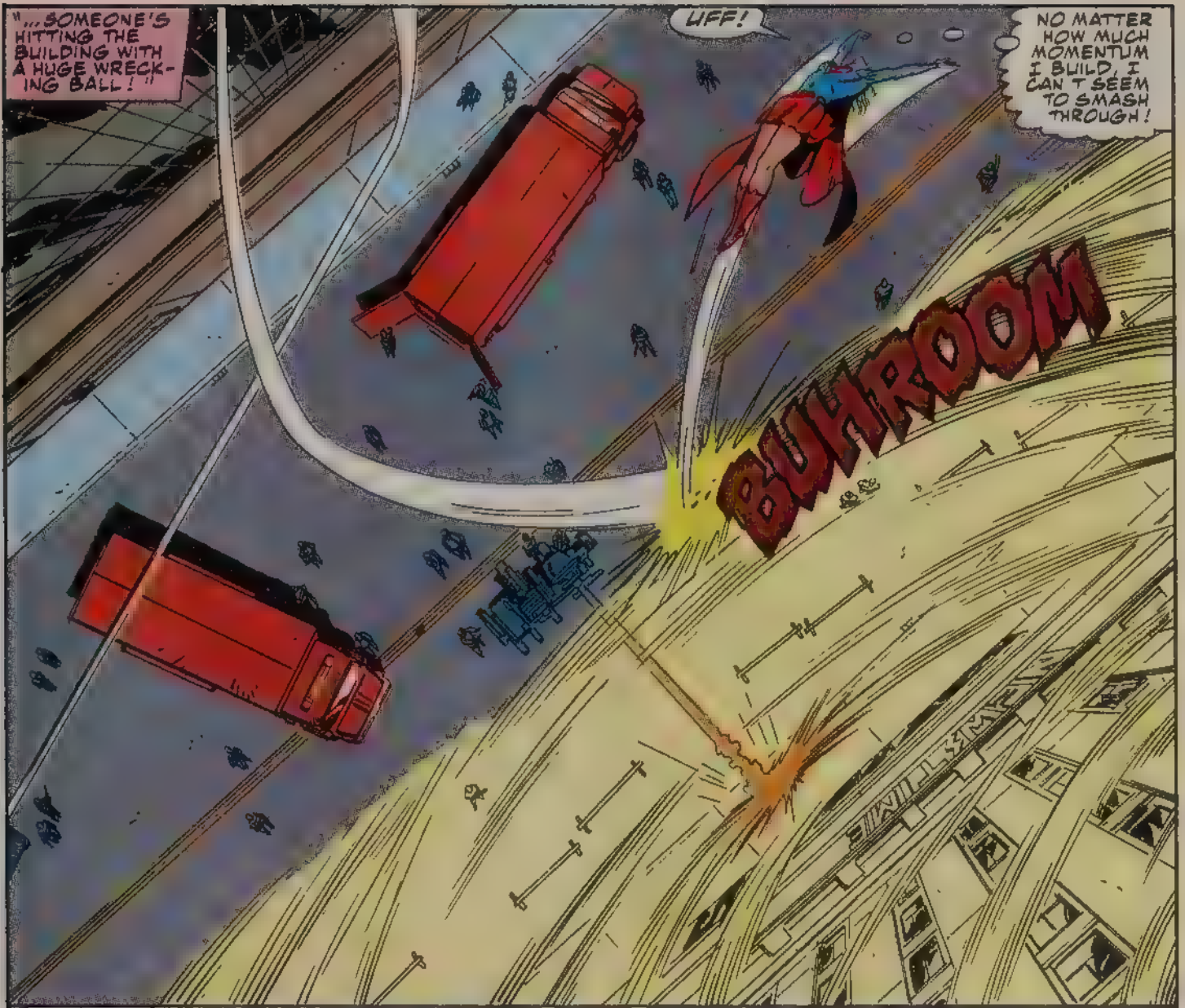
...TO... MEEEE?!

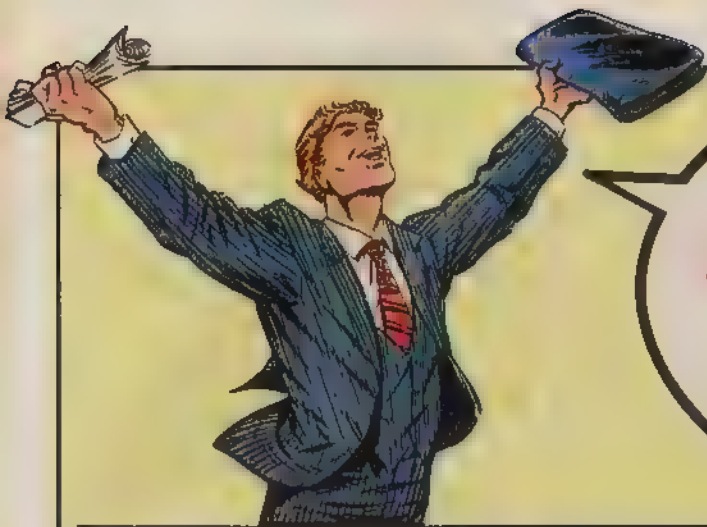
WHY YOUR TRANSFORMATION HAS JUST BEGUN, SAMUEL!

AFTER ALL, YOU SAID THAT YOU'D DO ANYTHING FOR ME! NOW YOU SHALL TRULY BECOME THE PAWN OF BLAZE...









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THE DEMON ANNUAL #1

As if he weren't naughty enough —
 Klarion the Witch-Boy gets possessed by
 Eclipso!



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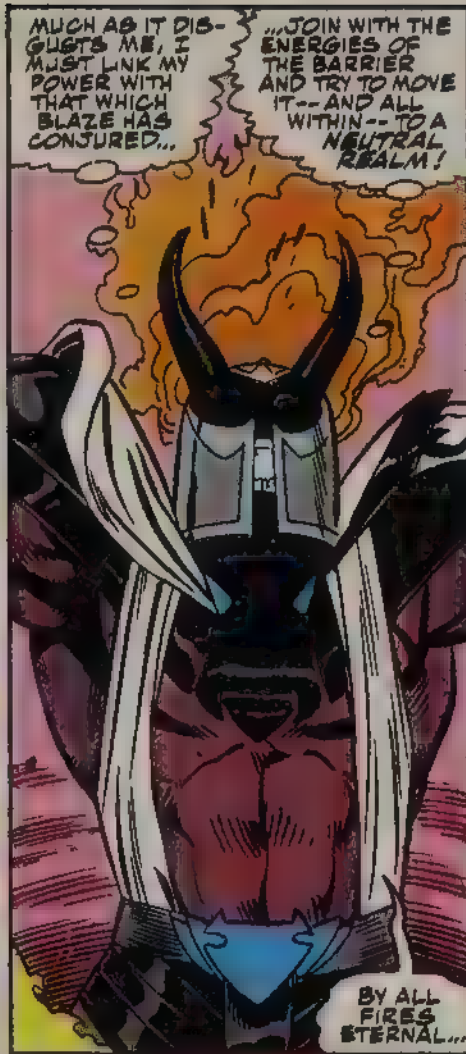
JUSTICE LEAGUE
AMERICA ANNUAL #6

Eclipso's tirade continues!
 Has it affected
 Wonder Woman and
 Maxima ?



OUTSIDE FORCES
ARE ACTUALLY
ON THE VERGE
OF BREACHING
THE BARRIER!

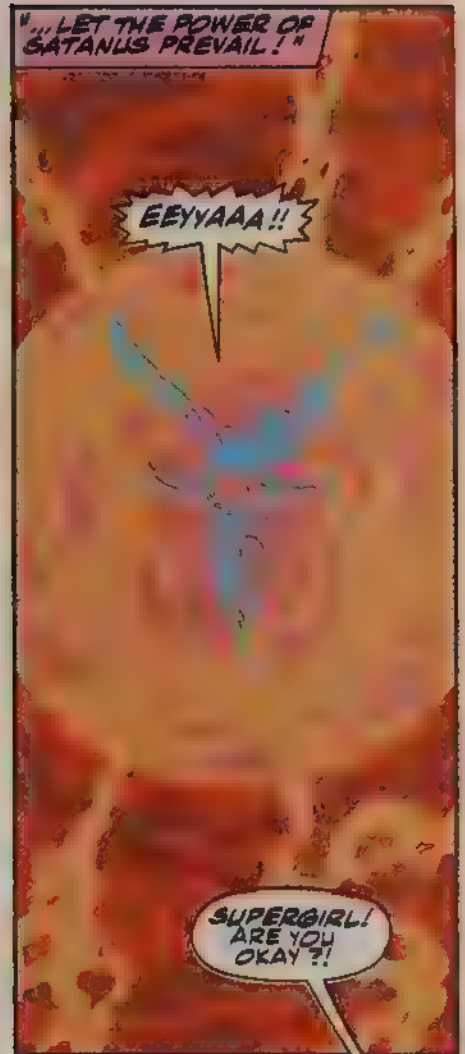
IF THAT SHOULD HAPPEN,
THE WHOLE OF THE
PHYSICAL WORLD MIGHT
BE DRAWN INTO BLAZE'S
DOMAIN! THAT WOULD BE
DISASTROUS AT THIS STAGE!



MUCH AS IT DIS-
GUSTS ME, I
MUST LINK MY
POWER WITH
THAT WHICH
BLAZE HAS
CONJURED...

...JOIN WITH THE
ENERGIES OF
THE BARRIER
AND TRY TO MOVE
IT-- AND ALL
WITHIN-- TO A
NEUTRAL
REALM!

BY ALL
FIRES
ETERNAL...



"...LET THE POWER OF
SATANUS PREVAIL!"

EEYAAAA!!

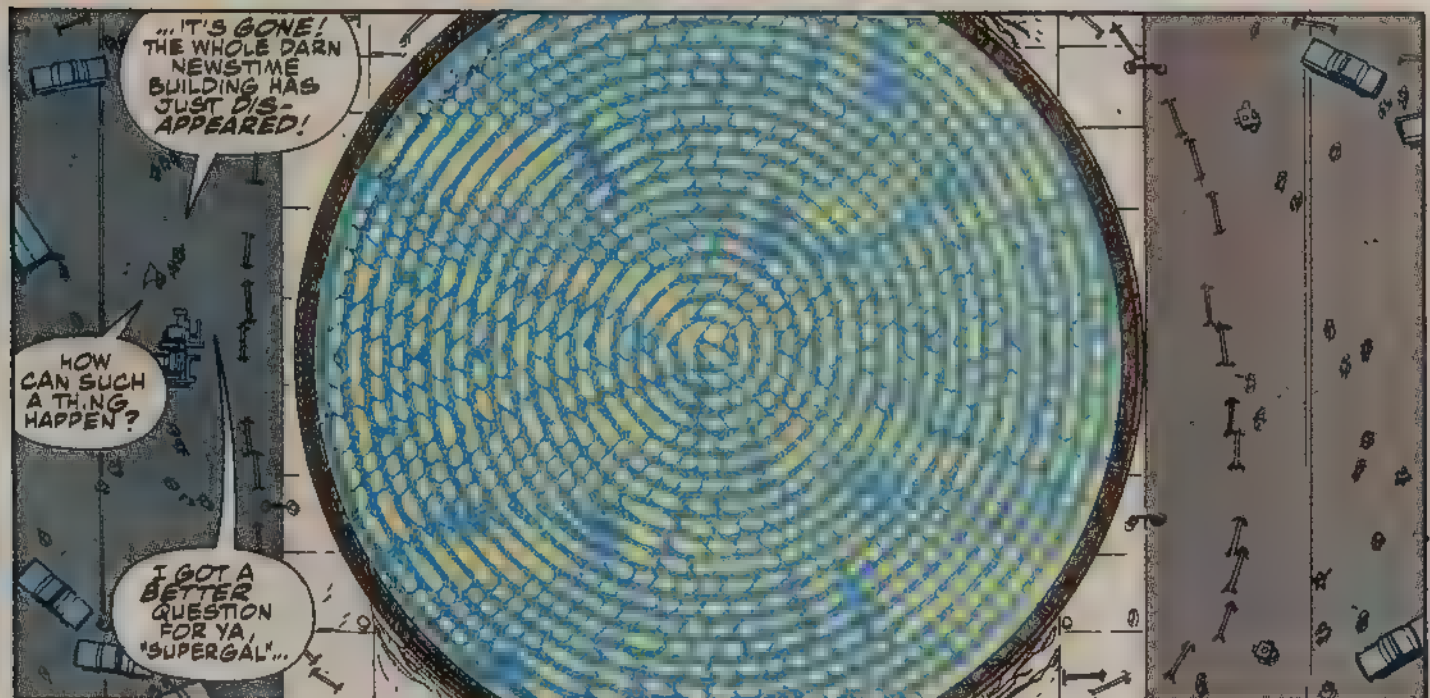
SUPERGIRL!
ARE YOU
OKAY?!



I-I THINK SO! I WAS ALMOST
THROUGH... BUT AT THE LAST
MOMENT, SOMETHING KNOCKED
ME BACK!

MAGGIE
--LOOK!

OH... MY...
GOD...



...IT'S GONE!
THE WHOLE DARN
NEWSTIME
BUILDING HAS
JUST DIS-
APPEARED!

HOW
CAN SUCH
A THING
HAPPEN?

I GOT A
BETTER
QUESTION
FOR YA,
"SUPERGAL"...

"...WHERE IN
BLAZES DID
IT GO?!"



TO BE
CONTINUED
NEXT WEEK IN
SUPERMAN: THE
MAN OF STEEL!
WHATEVER YOU DO,
DON'T MISS--

SANCTUARY

REACTION

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Dear Action Guys:

I just read ACTION COMICS #676, and boy, was I blown away! This new penciller, Jackson Guice, is great! He really knows how to complement Roger Stern's excellent writing. And the rest of the staff—my hat's off to you all. In my opinion, this team may be the best of all the SUPERMAN titles.

The way Lex Luthor II is written here, he has some real depth. He isn't your run-of-the-mill bad-guy philanthropist. In one panel, he's continuing his father's womanizing, the next, he's hugging his mother, and after that, he's planning to supplant Superman as the protector of the city. There are so many levels to this guy.

But what are his motives? Is he the old Luthor in a new body? Or is he really just a chip off the old block? I can't tell yet. He doesn't seem to be as nasty as his father, but of course that could be deceiving. However it turns out, though, I'm sure it will be a satisfying revelation.

And of course, I must comment on the last page. Supergirl in love with Lex Luthor? Well, it's obvious who she thinks he is, and I must admit, it's a good plot twist. I had almost forgotten about the pocket universe Luthor. They had a relationship over there. She mistook Lex the Second for Lex the Dead.

On an interesting historical note, young Lex Luthor had always had a thing for Lana Lang (whom Matrix thought she was). Whether he won the love of the real Lana we might not ever know. With Superboy out of the picture, he certainly had a shot.

I hope Lex II doesn't take advantage of her too much and make her, say, fight Superman! He would never do that. Never. Lex is not that kind of guy. It's out of the question.

Awaiting the big brawl...

Grant Gordils
Queens, NY

And we hope you enjoyed it, too!

Dear Superteam:

I want a Baldy Award, and I don't care who knows it! And by golly, I think I deserve one; after all, how many Superman fans after reading ACTION COMICS #676 made the connection between Luthor's piano playing and choice of song on board his ship, with a scene cut from the final print of the original Superman movie? Here's hoping this straightforward approach pays off. Siegel Dry Cleaners and Shuster Street, indeed!

Brian Adriaansen
Marion, NY

You're the only one so far, Brian, so go ahead, have a Baldy!

Dear Mike and Dan:

I knew it! Lex Luthor II is really scum just like his father. I'm not all that convinced that the first Luthor is dead. Maybe it's his consciousness that inhabits the body of this second Luthor. It would explain a lot (I know, I've read one too many comic books). How long until ol' Supes sees Lex's true colors?

Jackson Guice's art was gorgeous! So many so-so artists seem to be out there that when someone like Guice comes along, it makes reading comics that much better. How did the Superman books get all the good talent?

Jeff De Witt
Redlands, CA

Because they're the SUPERMAN books, capice?

Dear Mike:

Well, I tell you, I'm still in recovery from "Panic in the Sky." What a great story. It ranks right up there with "Krisis of the Krimson Kryptonite."

Although I liked "Panic in the Sky," I found ACTION COMICS #676 to be, well...a little outplayed. Don't get me wrong, I'm all for a romantic night out between Clark and Lois—but I really had high expectations for this Hellgrammite. Unfortunately, he didn't turn out to be anything the Man of Steel couldn't handle, which after a while gets kind of boring.

Lately, every two-bit villain has been the same. Like Jolt and Blockhouse, for example. They make the perfect plan, drag it out for months, but they don't take Superman into account and then the whole thing is shot to hell. Something just doesn't sound kosher here. Although they're not all high and mighty like Brainiac, villains like Jolt, Blockhouse, and Hellgrammite are not stupid. Well, maybe Blockhouse.

On a lighter note, I really do enjoy the romance between Clark and Lois. They are handled really well. I also must not forget to commend you guys for printing a lot of letters written by women. I always thought Superman was a male-oriented comic until my girlfriends got me hooked. And I'd be a liar if I said I didn't like

seeing his chest the whole time in "Blackout." But I'd really like to see Superman in more of a Bruce Wayne pose, in regard to the robe he wore in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #472.

Please keep the pace between Clark and Lois moving along. I think that if you made the villains a little tougher for the Man of Steel, this would bring Lois and Superman together more. Seeing him get a neck or foot massage from Lois would be nice. He certainly deserves it, considering all he did for the city.

Keep up the very, very, very, very, most awesome work!!!

A female writer from Brooklyn who wants her name withheld

Thanks for the comments, Madame X; we appreciate any constructive criticism we get, no matter how mysterious the source!

Dear Editor:

It is a great compliment to a comic book's power when its readers want to know what happens next. ACTION COMICS #676 is the type of book that leaves readers wanting to know more. This book has an intelligent, rich texture that is highlighted by the pencils of Jackson Guice. It will deservedly capture a wider audience as the lives of the citizens of Metropolis are plumbed in the coming months.

"Man of the Hour" by Roger Stern gives us Lex Luthor II, a treasure chest of unanswered questions, and Supergirl. Add to this concoction the fearsome power of Hellgrammite, Clark and Lois out on a date, and it all adds up to an action-packed installment!...Sorry, I couldn't resist the pun.

But make no mistake about this, Lex Luthor II is the star of the show. This young Luthor is a far more formidable foe than the late, lamented Lex Sr. ever was. And there are all these questions: What role will his mother play in the future? Did Hellgrammite survive, and will he attempt to kill Lex anytime soon? And what is going on with Supergirl? How long has she known Luthor? When will Luthor make an honest woman of Supergirl and set a date? But more important, what does all this mean for everybody's favorite Kryptonian? I am in no hurry to find out the answers, preferring instead to enjoy the events of each and every month.

I recommend that Lex II not lose that stunning mane of Celtic red hair in a laboratory experiment and blame Superman, thus setting into motion the tragic relationship that haunted another Superman a long time ago in a galaxy I visited in my youth. This new Luthor is unique and should remain so.

In the final analysis, the strength of this story lies in the overall effects of the vast, complex mosaic that the team of Stern, Guice, Rodier, and Whitmore created. The new printing process DC is utilizing on its books adds a nice tone to the coloring process, but I noticed the covers smear with thumbprints more easily than before. A minor quibble, to be sure.

Incidentally, did you folks know that there is a Lois Lane in Beaumont, California? That's Lane as in paved roadway. It might be interesting if readers wrote in with other such trivial tidbits. Or maybe not.

Thomas McNulty
Somewhereville, IL

Don't worry about it, be trivial. We are!

Dear Dan:

Hmm, a female weight trainer, not a position women are generally shown in. I give you a point for that. In addition, I give you another point for not making her an airhead bim-bette like Luthor's gals. But, I subtract a point for Arabela's "lucky woman" remark.

I realize that Matrix is a silly-putty like creature, but I'm tired of seeing her bounced around and used by every baddie in sight. After all, it's a living silly-putty.

Melissa Page
Nortonville, KY

Dear Superpeople:

ACTION #676 was a very good issue. I really like the way the thing between Lex Jr. and Matrix/Supergirl is shaping up. I wonder what these past memories they are talking about are. The kiss in the last panel was hot! This is becoming a real romance title with the Clark/Lois thing, the Pete/Lana thing and now Matrix and Lex Jr.

I also enjoyed seeing Hellgrammite again. What a great villain. This is the kind of villain that we need to see more of (although I did love the villains of "Panic in the Sky" too). Oh, and one other thing...Yuch! I wouldn't touch that piece of Hellgrammite's tail, even if it was evidence. It certainly did not look very appetizing.

Until Lex Jr.'s hair falls out—and there sure is a lot of it—up, up and away with ACTION COMICS.

Jonathan Pepper
Los Angeles, CA

Dear S-Teamed creators:

I have to commend Art Thibert on coming up with a fresh cover pose for Superman. It was very eye-catching and dynamic. I had to read the issue to work out what he was actually doing, but hey, I buy them to read them. So welcome to the front of ACTION COMICS, Art, and I hope your stay is as happy for you as it is for us readers.

Hellgrammite is one of the best villain creations of recent years. He just looks so threatening and evil. Let this guy last a long time. It is exciting when a villain spreads to other characters' titles, and Hellgrammite is certainly deserving of this.

The story itself was exciting as well. I really have to agree with Doug Smith about the post-Crisis SUPERMAN titles. They are consistently superior in quality of story and art, and they have risen to the top of my essential list.

So thank you, Roger, Denis, Jackson, Art, Bill, Glenn, Dan and finally Mike...it was nice to meet you and I hope you can come back to visit Australia in future years.

Paul Newton Hicks
Chatswood N.S.W., Australia

Thanks, Paul...Mike and Dan Jurgens had a grand time down under and intend to make the trek as often as they can. (Just keep that Vegemite stuff away from them...yuk!)

Also, just to set the record straight—Hellgrammite first appeared in a Batman/Creeper BRAVE AND BOLD story in the late sixties!

Dear Mike:

I love ACTION COMICS! I have to admit that the only reason that I started buying the SUPERMAN titles at all was that I met Roger Stern at a convention. I had been reading STARMAN for a while, and was intrigued with the plans he outlined for Superman. So, he convinced me. I started buying all the Superman titles with the beginning of the "Krypton Man" storyline. Needless to say, I was as impressed with Roger's stories here as I was with STARMAN.

Now in #676, you've added one of my personal favorite artists to the title. Jackson Guice did his usual fantastic job with one minor exception. Lois's face looked a little too narrow. His depictions of Hellgrammite and Lex II were excellent. I also really liked the prominence of the shield on Superman's costume. *Très chic.* Anyway, with Roger, Jackson and Denis Rodier, you may just have the perfect creative team. I'm gonna sit back and watch the sparks fly.

Tim Healy
West Hurley, NY

Go right ahead, Tim; just remember to do it outdoors and in a well ventilated area!

—Dan Thorsland
Don't Try This At Home, Kids!

NEXT WEEK: It's Part Three of the "Blaze/Satanus War" and with the Newstime building trapped in the weird-zone, it's up to Superman to save the lives—and souls—of its inhabitants! This place is wonky enough to louse up Superman's powers, so we drafted Keith Giffen to co-pencil this issue—with returning Super-Teamster Kerry Gammill as well as inker Trevor Scott! Meanwhile, Lois and Jimmy are fighting their own war within the aforementioned structure, and it's looking like a reenactment of Custer's last stand! Grab some Dramamine and join us for SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #15, by Louise Simonson, Kerry Gammill, Keith Giffen, and Trevor Scott!

IN TWO WEEKS: The "Blaze/Satanus War" concludes with a showdown between the demonic duo for a grand prize: the city of Metropolis! Superman is the deciding factor in the outcome of the battle, but can he make the right choice without sacrificing a (somewhat) innocent life? It will be a tough decision for the Man of Steel, and he will be judged for it! Don't miss SUPERMAN #71, by Dan Jurgens and Brett Breeding.

IN THREE WEEKS: Superman has won the war, but at what cost? A being of tremendous power watched the Man of Steel as he made last issue's fateful decision, and as everything returns to normal in Metropolis, the Man of Steel remains in the neutral realm to be judged by its sole inhabitant—KISMET! A glimpse of things that might have been by Jerry Ordway, Tom Grummett, and Doug Hazlewood in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #494!

IN ONE MONTH: After disastrous recent events, S.T.A.R. Labs Metropolis begins rebuilding its facilities on the outskirts of the city. Sounds pretty straightforward, right? C'mon, you know us better than that! Get ready for the return of the gal with the coolest mohawk in Metropolis...RAM-PAGE! PLUS: Sinister goings-on in the apartment next door to Clark's may involve Superman in a matter that even he can't resolve! Join us for ACTION COMICS #681, by Roger Stern, Jackson Guice, and Denis Rodier.

This month's hellish showdown cover was pencilled and inked by Art Thibert and colored by Glenn Whitmore! "Okay, horn-face, let's rock and roll!"



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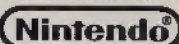
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